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Security Council

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Letter dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward the attached letter from Mr. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea, dated 12 May 2000, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haile **Menkerios**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As you will have been informed, Ethiopia has today resumed its war of aggression against Eritrea by launching a large-scale offensive.

Ethiopia's renewed resort to force comes in the wake of its repeated declaration to the international community that it was going to war. This is what the Ethiopian Prime Minister told the Security Council mission as well as members of the diplomatic corps.

In the letter he sent to you on 11 May, on the eve of his renewed aggression against Eritrea, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia sought to justify the continuation of the war by alluding to the "conclusive and definitive" collapse of the peace process. In reality, it is Ethiopia, which has frustrated the peace process by reneging on its commitments and rejecting the technical arrangements after seven months of stalling. When Eritrea agreed, for the sake of peace, to open the technical arrangements for discussion, Ethiopia again blocked the proximity talks in Algiers by refusing to respect key provisions of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities for its Implementation, which form a basis for the talks and that were endorsed by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit in Algiers. Ethiopia has also rejected proposals put forward by the mission of the Security Council that visited both countries this week.

Ethiopia's renewed resort to force is in flagrant violation of the OAU Framework Agreement and Modalities, which commit both parties to refrain from the use of force. It is also a violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The United Nations Security Council has repeatedly resolved that the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

Accordingly, Eritrea calls on the Security Council to:

1. Strongly condemn Ethiopia's resumption of its war of aggression on Eritrea;

2. Support Eritrea's legitimate right to self-defence.

(*Signed*) Isaias **Afwerki**
President of the State of Eritrea